

1st SESSION

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

.....

Mr. STENNIS

submitted the following resolution; which was

RESOLUTION

To provide for the writing of a history of the involvement of the United States in the war in Vietnam.

Whereas, it is a vital concern of the United States Senate that the people of the United States be thoroughly informed about important issues of foreign and defense policies; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the people of the United States that a professional, objective account of the United States involvement in the war in Vietnam be prepared outside the framework of the Federal Government as soon as possible; and

Whereas, the demanding tasks of analyzing documents and writing history are best accomplished by trained professional academic historians of the highest caliber; and

Whereas, the publication of portions of the classified report of the Department of Defense entitled "United States -- Vietnam Relations: 1945-1967" has focused public attention on the origins of the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, such classified report presents documents and analyses of the above subject matter which are necessarily incomplete:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in order to provide for an impartial, non-partisan historical account of the United States' involvement in the war in Vietnam, the Librarian of Congress and the Director of the National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, are hereby requested to (1) establish a board to be known as the Vietnam War Historical Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), (2) request the President and Council of the American Historical Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, and such other learned societies and organizations as may wish to do so, to nominate eminent historians to serve on the Board, and (3) appoint, from among those so nominated, five Members of the Board. The Librarian of Congress is further requested to disburse to the Board funds made available pursuant to this resolution for the purpose of assisting such Board in supervising the preparation and publication of a detailed history of the United States' involvement in Vietnam during the period from 1945 through the end of the U.S. commitment of ground forces, including the origins, conduct, and wide-ranging effects of the War; that portion of the history dealing with the period from 1945 through 1968 should be published, if possible, within five years after the date of adoption of this resolution.

Sec. 2. The President is requested to direct the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of such other departments and agencies of the Government as the President deems appropriate, to make available to the Board all records, documents, films, recordings, and other material and information pertaining to such involvement during that period, such records, documents, films, recordings, and other material and information to be made available under such procedures

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relating to the handling and disclosure of classified material as may be mutually agreeable to the department or agency concerned and the Board. Such procedures shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, such requirements as may be necessary to insure that, (1) Only that number of historians necessary to complete the research, preparation, and publication of the history within the prescribed time will be granted access to classified material; (2) Secure facilities are maintained for the examination of classified material and, where necessary for security reasons, for conducting research and writing; (3) The final manuscript of the history will be submitted to the President for security clearance prior to publication; (4) There is no unauthorized publication or other unauthorized disclosure of material based on classified sources. All requests for security clearances for historians participating in the research and writing of the history should be processed expeditiously.

Sec. 3. The Board is urged and requested to consult with and seek the cooperation and advice of other individuals, institutions, and organizations which may have special knowledge of the period and events with which the Board is concerned or which have custody of records, documents, and information pertaining to such period and events.

Sec. 4. (a) To carry out the provisions of this resolution there shall be established in the Library of Congress a gift fund, and the initial donation to said fund shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. Other institutions and individuals may contribute to this fund, as well as the Senate, and other sources may be used to supplement this fund.

(b) The Librarian is requested to require from the Board an appropriate accounting for the expenditure of any funds made available to it pursuant to this resolution.

(c) Because of the nature of the requirements and conditions set out and inherent in the purposes of this resolution and for which this fund is established, the sums in the fund shall be used for expenditures necessary to carry out those purposes without reference to general regulatory and prohibitory statutes applicable to public funds, but subject to the restrictions in subsection (b) above.

(d) The initial expenses of the Board and the administrative expenses of the Library of Congress for the project shall be paid out of this fund under procedures established by the Librarian.